

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A burner apparatus comprising an inner tube defining a second channel and an outer tube defining a first channel surrounding the inner tube, oxygen-containing gas supplying means for supplying oxygen-containing gas to the first channel and the second channel, and gas supplying means for supplying fuel gas to the first channel and the second channel, either the first channel or the second channel being used as a main combustion channel and the other being used as a pilot combustion channel, the main combustion channel and the pilot combustion channel receiving the supply of fuel gas for combusting it;

wherein a plurality of said first supply openings for supplying the fuel gas into the main combustion channel are distributed in the main combustion channel in a direction away from the pilot combustion channel; and

discharging resistance of the fuel gas from each said first supply opening due to passage of the oxygen-containing gas is set so as to increase as being distant from the pilot combustion channel.

34. (Original) The burner apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the setting of the discharging resistance of the fuel gas is done such that a discharging angle for the fuel gas at each said first supply opening toward the upstream side in the flow direction of the oxygen-containing gas in the main combustion channel is decreased as being distant from the pilot combustion channel.

35. (Original) The burner apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the setting of the discharging resistance of the fuel gas is done such that the discharging direction of the fuel gas from the plurality of first supply openings is set to be more upstream than the direction normal to the flow direction of the oxygen-containing gas in the main combustion channel and also that the opening area of each said first supply opening is increased as being distant from the pilot combustion channel.

36-48. (Cancelled)